

THE TART WITH

'I know what to do with my money - buy art, good scripts and give it to people

"I'M nobody's toy," Madonna says, uncurling a sultry smile.

"I'm a brat for sure, although I don't travel in a pack. But I'm also a strong woman, a successful woman."

We live in the age of Madonna. Since her first appearance in 1983 she has become one of the icons of our times.

From the start Madonna has been in control of her own destiny.

"I am what I am," she says, "and I do what I do. I never set out to be a role model for girls or women - and I don't conform to

any stereotype. You know the idea - you need to be like a chainsaw or an army tank to lay in a man's world. Well I don't act like a man, yet I play in a man's world."

Madonna wins in a man's world. This Material Girl has made a large fortune in a short time - the equivalent of \$112 million in the past four years. This year, with her Blonde Ambition world tour and a new movie, Dick Tracy, she will really clean up. In April she was paid \$48 million for just nine shows in Japan.

Her latest project is her

new album, I'm Breathless, which she describes as "songs from and inspired by Dick Tracy".

The girl never misses a trick, or the opportunity to shock. One of her six songs - which is a stage sensation - is Hanky Panky, where she sings about being spanked.

She teases: "I have this feeling that I'm a bad girl - and that I need to be punished."

A true tart with a heart, Madonna is not afraid to stand up and be counted.

Since a former flatmate died from AIDS she has been a strident campaigner against the killer

disease. She is giving 10 per cent of her tour proceeds - and that would be as much as \$10 million - to help fund research.

She says: "Next to Hitler, AIDS is the worst thing to happen in the 20th century. I want to do anything I can to promote AIDS awareness, prevention - whatever."

In spite of her wealth Madonna Ciccone does not lead an extravagant life. Her house in the Hollywood Hills is small by L.A. standards.

The walls are covered with paintings and pictures by the greatest artists and photographers of the century.

"I know what to do with my money," she says. "Buy art, invest in good scripts and give it to people who need it."

"Having money is just the best thing in the world. It gives you freedom, power and the ability to help others."

"When I'm really old, what I want to do is to be this patron of artists. Hopefully I'll also have a movie career."

It is only in the film world that Madonna is still a "wannabe". Since her brilliant debut in *Desperately Seeking Susan* her celluloid adventures have been far less impressive than her exotic, naughty pop videos. That will change with *Dick Tracy*, in which she plays nightclub singer Breathless Mahoney, Warren Beatty's love interest.

After the tour she will star in *Blessing In Disguise*, produced by her film company, Siren.

LEFT: Madonna on stage... \$48 million for nine shows.
RIGHT: Madonna with Dick Tracy co-star Warren Beatty.



A HEART!

invest in who need it'

"I am in charge of everything," says Madonna. Everything, that is, except for her heart. Since her divorce from Sean Penn last year she has been accused of a lesbian affair with comedienne Sandra Bernhard, had a fling with Warren Beatty, moved back with former lover Jellybean Benitez and now is dallying with video director David Fincher.

None of them means anything compared to what she had with Sean. Their 3½-year marriage was destructive to both their lives because they loved each other too much.

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Tears well into her eyes as she says: "It was tough last year. I was going through so many things — and my divorce. Every once in a while I'll wake up and think, 'My God, I was married once and he was the love of my life!' We're like Burton and Taylor."

"I hope some day we can be friends."

*From Robin Eggar
in London*

*Concert picture:
Neal Preston*

*Dick Tracy picture:
Patrick Demarchelier*

